Property crime in the Northern Territory has hit an eight year low as a result of an increased Police presence and zero-tolerance approach to anti-social behaviour.

“Property crime has decreased by 8.2 per cent in the last 12 months, and is the lowest it has been in the Northern Territory since 2004-05,” Attorney-General John Elferink said.

“There were 946 fewer property related offences in the three months to June 2013 compared to the same period last year.

“There are more Police on the beat than ever before, and combined with a high visibility approach, the Territory has seen a drastic reduction in offences against property.”

In the June 2012 quarter there were 645 house break-ins across the Territory compared to 383 in the June 2013 quarter – a reduction of more than 40 per cent.

Similarly, there has been a 12.6 per cent decline in the number of commercial break-ins in the three months to June 2013 compared to the same period in 2012.

Mr Elferink said this is a significant achievement for the Country Liberals Government in just 12 months.

“This Government’s commitment to get tough on crime is putting in 120 more frontline Police on our streets, resulting in a reduction in property-related offences and creating a safer community for Territorians,” Mr Elferink said.

“Police operations Strike Forces Trident and Vega, have been targeting property-related crime in Darwin, Palmerston and Alice Springs and have resulted in a total of 851 arrests collectively.

“These operations are taking a no-tolerance approach to property crime and have led to 1187 prosecutions since they began.

“As a result, Darwin property offences in 2012-13 are the lowest they have been since at least 1999 (the earliest year in the current crime statistics dataset) and Palmerston property offences are the lowest since 2005-06.

“The number of property offences in Alice Springs decreased by 9.2% or 462 offences over the last year, breaking the increasing trend of recent years,” Mr Elferink said.

Mr Elferink said unfortunately, assaults and domestic violence continues to be a concern in the community.
“In response, operations have been running across the Northern Territory in an attempt to reduce assaults and domestic violence-related crimes,” Mr Elferink said.

“These operations, including Project Respect, incorporate a proactive arrest strategy and increased support for domestic violence victims.

“These have resulted in an increase of 14.8 per cent in domestic violence-related assault offences recorded in the June 2013 quarter compared to the June 2012 quarter.

“Despite encouraging results with reductions to property-related offences, there is still much more to do.

“The Pillars of Justice will work to address some of the major causes of crime in the community by reducing recidivism, introducing boot camps to target the problematic behaviour of youth offenders and ensuring better resourcing for a strong Police Force.

“We are taking a tough approach to law and order and looking ahead to how we can reduce crime and make our community a safer place for Territorians,” Mr Elferink said.

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